

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00090 231435Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 747

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION
APRIL 29.

REF : HALIFAX 073

1. WHEN DEADLINE FOR FILING NOMINATING PAPERS EXPIRED
ON APRIL 12, LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES (PC) HAD
NOMINATED FULL SLATES OF 32 EACH AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(NDP) HAD NAMED TWENTY CANDIDATES. THIS IS FIRST P.E.I.
GENERAL ELECTION IN WHICH NDP HAS RUN CANDIDATES. IN
THREE BY-ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER 1972 THE NDP HAD FOR THE
FIRST TIME PARTICIPATED IN P.E.I. POLITICS.

2. PREMIER CAMPBELL FIRST BROUGHT LIBERALS BACK INTO POWER
IN 1966 AFTER SEVEN YEARS PC GOVERNMENT WITH NARROW WIN
OF 17 SEATS TO 15. IN 1970 ELECTION HE MUCH INCREASED
STRENGTH WITH 27 LIBERALS TO FIVE PC'S. TWO OF THREE 1972 BY-
ELECTIONS WENT TO PC'S GIVING THEM TOTAL OF SEVEN SEATS.
PRESENT VACANT SEAT HAD BEEN LIBERAL SO LIBERALS HAD 24
SEATS WHEN ELECTION CALLED.

3. PEI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONSISTS OF 16 COUNCILLORS
AND 16 ASSEMBLYMEN, ONE OF EACH FOR EACH ELECTORIAL DISTRICT.
UNDER ELECTORIAL SYSTEM PRIOR TO 1966, ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS
COULD VOTE FOR ASSEMBLY MEN BUT ONLY PROPERTY OWNERS
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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00090 231435Z

CLERGYMEN, WAR VETERANS AND THEIR WIVES COULD VOTE FOR

COUNCILLORS. SINCE 1966, NO RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING.

4. ELECTION IS ONE WITHOUT MAJOR ISSUES SO THAT INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITY OF CANDIDATES LIKELY TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN RESULTS. OVERWHELMING LIBERAL WIN IN NEIGHBORING NOVA SCOTIA MAY HAVE SOME ECHO EFFECT.

5. THE 150 MILLION SURPLUS IN BUDGET ANNOUNCED BY FINANCE MINISTER HICKEY IN EARLY APRIL TOGETHER WITH PROMISES OF TAX RELIEF BY ELIMINATION OF 8 PERCENT SALES TAX ON MANY ITEMS AND 25 PER CENT REDUCTION ON PROPERTY TAX SHOULD HELP LIBERALS.

6. REPORT ON QUESTIONABLE LAND TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED BY PROVINCE (CONGENA-13) TO BE MADE PUBLIC BY PREMIER PRIOR TO ELECTION AND WILL PRESUMABLY REDUCE IMPORTANCE AS ELECTION ISSUE.
MANBEY

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